

Date of Panel	17 JUNE 2013	Agenda Item Number	9
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MILTON KEYNES CARE LEAVERS CHARTER

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 Division: Children and Families: Integrated Support and Social Care

Report Summary

Purpose:

To update Corporate Parenting Panel on the progress of Milton Keynes Council adoption of the National Charter for Care Leavers and work undertaken with our Children in Care Council (TCTF) to help embed its principles in day to day practice.

Background:

On the 30th October 2012, Edward Timpson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families wrote to all Director's of Children's Services in England setting out his ambitions and expectations for improving outcomes for Care Leavers. Included with this letter was a Charter for Care Leavers which had been produced by Care Leavers themselves was published on the 29th October 2012 and all Local Authorities were invited by the Minister to sign up to this Charter and to work with their Children in Care Councils (CICC) to identify what needed to be done to help embed its principles in day to day practice.

Corporate Priorities:

TCTF represents a central plank in the Council's participation agenda through which we seek to provide responsive and effective services. Through active engagement with and listening to service users we aim to ensure that services meet the expressed needs and wishes of young people and improve outcomes for children in care and those who have left the care of Milton Keynes Council in line with the Council's Children and Families 2012-2013 priority 4: To develop and maintain effective intervention for those experiencing additional difficulty and to prevent them from suffering significant harm.

Performance Information:

N/A

Equality and Diversity Impact:

Corporate Parenting service is provided for children from across Milton Keynes Community. It therefore needs to provide interventions that can meet the diverse needs of the children and young people in the care of Milton Keynes Council.

Recommendations /Proposals:

Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to note and discuss the report.

Full Report:

We have agreed to sign up to this National Charter for Care Leavers and then undertake further consultation with our children and young people through their Children in Care Council (TCTF) to determine whether they would wish to adopt this National Charter within Milton Keynes or alternatively to develop their own proposal for a Care Leavers Charter.

The consultation with our children and young people is in progress but was delayed until after GCSE examinations. We anticipate having the young people's proposal for a Milton Keynes Care Leavers Charter in mid July 2013 and would anticipate agreeing to the final Charter in September 2013 after having presented the final draft to both TCTF and CPP in September 2013.

We will also discuss with our children and young people what further, if anything, Milton Keynes Children's Services needs to do to embed the principles of the agreed Milton Keynes Care Leavers Charter within day to day practice.

We will ensure that all children in care and care leavers are aware of the Charter once agreed and that they know how to challenge or complain if they believe that the Charter is not being delivered as agreed.

Carolann James
22nd May 2013